

# CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

191542

FLD  
983

COUNTRY

China, Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR.

3 May 1943

SUBJECT

Political Information: The Czechoslovak Community, Shanghai

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The present Czechoslovak Circle (Ceskoslovensky Krouzek) at 214 Avenue Roi Albert in Shanghai was organized in 1936 and functioned as a regular club. In 1939, after the declaration of war on Germany by Great Britain, the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai became the unofficial organ for the "Free Czechs" headed by the exiled Czechoslovak Government in London. Members of the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai did not recognize Czechoslovakia under the German occupation (during which were created the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Independent Slovak State. They did not apply for Protectorate passports and in such matters considered themselves under the jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak Consulate in Bombay, India. Prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War, members of the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai carried out registration, issued various certificates, and performed benevolent work in Shanghai among Czechoslovak Jewish refugees from Europe.

2. After the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai was instructed by the Japanese authorities to act as the representative organization of all Czechoslovak residents in Shanghai and to render assistance to the local authorities under the Japanese in all matters concerning Czechoslovaks. During World War II the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai consisted of the following:

Evald Jan Stembera, chairman; owner of the Physical Institute at 215/28 Madhurst Road, which he is still operating.

Josef Novotny, treasurer; formerly a stage barber; since returned to Czechoslovakia via the USSR; his wife while in Shanghai was employed as a radio operator with TASS.

Tomas Pavlica, secretary; address, 1276/5 Avenue Joffre

Leopold Novak, member; accountant for the Shanghai branch of the Bata Shoe Company, Limited, of Singapore; Shanghai residence, 741/28 Rue Ratard.

Antonin Duchon, member; address, 22-C Pere Robert.

Duchon does liaison work between the Soviet authorities and the present Czechoslovak Circle. An Antonin Duchon advertises as a newspaper and magazine salesman in Novosti Dnya, Soviet Russian-language daily in Shanghai).

Josef Horský, member; a motorcar salesman whose present address is 1023 Chungcheng Road (Avenue Foch).

(Note: At this address, the Shanghai Telephone Directory lists a T. Horský. In L. Horský is listed as the leader of the Pro-Soviet Group of Czechoslovaks.)

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Auth: 17/1983

Date: 25 APR 1978 Approved For Release 2001/11/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001400950004

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Most of the above persons were supporters of President Benes during World War II and performed considerable work in Shanghai defending the interests of the Czechoslovak community.

3. During the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, Czechoslovak Jewish people residing in the "Designated Area" of the Hongkew District of Shanghai organized the so-called Czechoslovak District Association with the patronage of the Japanese authorities. This Association had approximately 250 members and was at 43 Chusan Road. The chairman of the Association was Dr. Pavel Ehrlich, who resided at 56 Ward Road; he was known as a Soviet sympathizer. Alfred Stosler, 599/72 Tongshan Road, was secretary and liaison officer between the Association and the Czechoslovak Circle.
4. During World War II the Czechoslovak community in Shanghai was divided into two groups: (1) about 100 persons took passports of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, which gave the holders the possibility of receiving financial assistance from the German Consulate General and facilitated their obtaining employment. Dr. Seba (Sheba), Czechoslovak Ambassador to China, handed over the archives of his office to the German Legation in China after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Germans; this factor induced many Czechoslovaks to take Protectorate passports. After the capitulation of Japan, most of these 100 persons gradually obtained Czechoslovak passports. (2) The other group supported the Czechoslovak Government-in-exile. The Czechoslovak Jewish organization, the Association of Czechoslovak Citizens in the "Designated Area" of Hongkew District of Shanghai, was closed after the capitulation of Japan.
5. In 1942 when Moscow organized the Czechoslovak Brigade under General Svoboda in the USSR and the All-Slav Union under the chairmanship of Major General Gundurov, a pro-Soviet feeling began to be noticed in the Shanghai Czechoslovak community. At the Soviet Citizens' Club in Shanghai, the Shanghai TASS office organized a branch of the All-Slav Union with Czechoslovak, Polish, Yugoslav and Ukrainian sections. The Czechoslovak section was headed by the late Major Jaroslav Stepan, Counsellor of the Czechoslovak Legation; in this section were secret members of the Czechoslovak Free Movement and persons connected with De Gaulle's Free France Movement. The pro-Soviet element of the Czechoslovak section were led by Dr. Pavel Ehrlich, Czechoslovak Jewish refugee who has left Shanghai for the United States (see paragraph 3); and a Mr. Zinger, who has left Shanghai for Czechoslovakia, where he is said to have joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Zinger was on friendly terms with Ehrlich in Shanghai and these two men reportedly correspond at present.
6. After the capitulation of Japan and the return to Praha of the Government-in-exile, members of the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai gradually resigned and were replaced by a new committee. Considerable influence was exerted in this committee by radical pro-Soviet Czechoslovak refugees in Shanghai, some of whom had remained "stateless" citizens during the Japanese occupation.
7. At present there are about 250 members of the Czechoslovak Circle in Shanghai. Of these 150 are longtime members and the remainder joined the Circle after the capitulation of the Japanese. Most of the latter were Czechoslovak Jewish refugees, part of whom have left for the United States and part have returned to Czechoslovakia. According to information received in Shanghai, many of those who returned to Czechoslovakia have joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia or have become Communist sympathizers in order to obtain government jobs.

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8. At present the Czechoslovak community in Shanghai is united by the Czechoslovak Circle. Its Executive Committee includes the following persons:

Samuel Donath, chairman; Czechoslovak Jewish refugee, former vice chairman. He became chairman after the resignation of J. Horský, who had replaced Jan Gottwald as chairman. He is scheduled to leave Shanghai for the United States and is considered anti-Soviet.

S. K. Rezac (also reported as J. Rezac and A. B. Rezek), secretary; a longtime resident of Shanghai and the assistant manager of Quinpol Trading Company.

H. K. Drazdil, treasurer, who recently resigned; member of the Dyes department of Olivier-Chino (S.A.), French export-import firm at 95 Museum Road, Shanghai.

V. V. Shick (Schick), member; a partner in International Suppliers Corporation of China, import-export firm with offices at 233 Nanking Road, Shanghai; a longtime Czechoslovak Jewish resident of Shanghai; during the Civil War in Russia he was a member of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia.

Bodo (first name unknown), member; Czechoslovak Jewish refugee, employee of a French firm.

Zink (first name unknown), member; former member of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia and later an employee of the former French Municipal Council in Shanghai.

Steiner (first name unknown), member; Czechoslovak Jewish refugee, accountant for Henningsen Produce Company, head office 51 Kwangtung Road.

V. Hrdlicka, member; employee of Bata Shoe Company; son of a former captain of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia.

Jiricek, member; manager of Bata Shoe Company; during the Pacific War he participated in the defense of Hongkong as a member of the Volunteer Corps and later was interned.

9. The Czechoslovak Legation in China is headed by Dr. Lalek, Minister, and the following members: Dem (?), secretary, who also acts as a consul at Shanghai, visiting Shanghai periodically; Heil, second secretary; and Malinovsky, commercial attache. Prior to World War II, Malinovsky was secretary of the Czechoslovak Legation at Singapore and later a consul there.

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